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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Developing Crisis in the Kremlin

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DATE DISTR. 9 Dec 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO  
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS **UNEVALUATED** INFORMATION

1. The strains among the various groups in the Kremlin are developing toward the point of crisis. The main underlying pressure is due to Malenkov's impatience to establish a personal dictatorship of the Stalin type, an ambition in which he is at present assisted by N.S. Khrushchev.

2. The differences of opinion between Malenkov and Molotov over Soviet policy in Germany have led the former to increase the pressure on his chief rival. Malenkov has decided to crush all opposition to his own line, even at the price of accusing Molotov of treason. The departure of Voroshilov from Moscow will facilitate Malenkov's intentions. Molotov is not well, and his position has been weakened by the removal of Bulia.
3. Since any fundamental and serious agreement with the West is not considered possible in the Kremlin, and indeed, is not even wanted, Molotov is hesitant about opening negotiations, for the unavoidable failure of which he would be held responsible. Molotov has so far succeeded in allowing the first proposal for a Lugano conference to go unanswered, and has the backing of the Red Army leaders, but is being pushed by Malenkov's insistence that he risk his prestige in the matter.
4. Malenkov resents the army leaders' support of Molotov, whom they are also backing on the German question. Malenkov has been trying to purge the upper army levels, beginning with an effort to replace Admiral Kuznetsov by N.S. Basisty. This move has provoked suspicion in high army levels, especially on the part of Marshal Zhukov, and is increasing the tension in the Kremlin.

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5. The position has recently been made more complex by the formation of a third, new and independent group of young Communist leaders, including EN.Pospelov, MA.Suslov, M.G.Pervukhin, M.Z.Saburov, P.K.Ponomarenko. This group is severely critical of the activities of Kaganovich, and is also attacking N.A.Bulganin, Voroshilov, and A.J.Mikoyan. Its present aim is to eliminate all members of the Bolshevik old guard and supporters of the personal dictatorship of Stalin. The older men find it difficult to adapt themselves to the new theory of collective leadership.
6. With the help of Khrushchev, Malenkov has been exploiting this situation cleverly, and is making strides toward a personal dictatorship. Meanwhile, the action against Beria's supporters is being pushed forward. Alexander Chervashchin, Secretary of the Communist Party in Siberia was recently arrested in Irkutsk, along with several members of the regional Central Committee.

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